



HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL - AFGHANISTAN PROGRAMMES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1990

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- ORTHOPAEDIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR AFGHAN TECHNICIANS AND  
REHABILITATION UNITS IN AFGHANISTAN.
- HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
- QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT
- TARGET REGION: Southern Afghanistan (Helmand, Ghazni,  
Kandahar).
- REPORTING PERIOD: From 01/09/90 to 31/12/90.
- RESPONSIBLE: Francois De Keersmaecker - Coordinator.

## **1. LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITIES**

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### **1.1. The Training Centre in Quetta**

This Training Centre has been established to ensure the training of the students coming from inside Afghanistan. With a capacity of twelve students, it is fully equipped for technical training to Below Knee (BK) and Above Knee (AK) prostheses. The neighbouring Quetta Centre for Afghan Refugees ensures the presence of amputee patients for exercises.

### **1.2. The Rehab Units in Afghanistan**

Four Rehab Units are planned to be set up inside the country:

- Dara, District of Baghran, Province of Helmand (MCI);
- Spendai, District of Ghazni, Province of Ghazni (IAHC);
- Karni Manda, District of Musa Qala, Province of Helmand (IAHC);
- Nakhouni, District of Punjwai, Province of Kandahar (MCI).

The two first ones have been set up in 1990, the two last ones will be set up in 1991.

- Zindadjian, Province of Herat (Jamiat-e-Islami, Ismael Khan). This Unit was set up by H.I. in 1988, and works now only with H.I. technical consultancy. UNOCA funding for 1991 is expected.

## **2. THE PARTNERSHIP SOLUTION**

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### **2.1. Why the work with partners**

In November of 1989 the agreements between H.I. and two partners (M.C.I. and I.A.H.C.) were signed in order to set up 4 Rehab Units inside Afghanistan.

Agreement with UNOCA for the Unit of Zindadjian should be finalized in early 1991.

The necessity to work with partners follows the decision not to send any Handicap International staff inside Afghanistan. H.I., being only technical consultant, needed then the support of implementing agencies.

The choice of the partners was motivated by their knowledge of the field, their presence in Quetta, the quality of their work inside Afghanistan.

## 2.2. Which partners

Mercy Corps International (MCI) is an important Non Governmental Organization running medical programmes in all the provinces of South Afghanistan.

Islamic Aid Health Centre (IAHC) is an afghan medical Non Governmental Organization running medical programmes in Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand and Ghazni provinces.

Both of them are among the most active medical organizations in Southern Afghanistan operating from Quetta. They are members of SWABAC and well known for their field experience.

## 2.3. Which partnership

Agreements are signed between Handicap International and its partners to specify the conditions of the cooperation and the responsibilities of both parties.

Handicap International is considered as a Technical Consultant advising and supervising the activities of the Rehab Units, and IAHC and MCI as implementing agencies inside Afghanistan.

The financial support of H.I. is limited to the training at the Quetta Training Centre and to the funding of the first year of activity of the Rehab Units (construction and equipment of the workshop; salaries of the technicians; material for the manufacture of the devices; accomodation of the patients). After this period, the partners will be fully responsible for the funding and running of the Units, with technical supervision and consultancy of H.I.

## 3. COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

### - December 1989:

MCI sends to Quetta 4 students from Dara.

IAHC sends to Quetta 3 students from Spendai and 4 from Karni Manda.

Meeting in Peshawar with 3 responsible persons of the Jamiat-e-Islami (running the former H.I. project in Zindadjan, Province of Herat): H.I. has no funding anymore for this Unit, but proposes a retraining session for 4 of the technicians, since January 1990.

**- January 1990:**

Beginning of the first BK training and evaluation of the students from MCI and IAHC. One of the students of Spendai disappears; after discussions with the partners the four students from Karni Manda are refused due to their too low level. Only six students remaining.

The students from Zindadjan are not ready to come yet.

**- February 1990:**

IAHC sends a new student to replace the missing one of Spendai. Decision is made to delay the training of the people from Karni Manda until the next session.

Objectives are revised: the first training will concern only BK prosthesis and crutches, because of the level of the students.

**- June 1990:**

Plans and budget for the construction of the Rehab Units are made and agreed with the partners, who can start with the constructions. A first instalment is given to MCI (90,000 Rs) for the construction of the Unit of Dara.

The workshop Supervisor selected for Dara arrives in Quetta and begins his training.

Four students arrive from Zindadjan. Beginning of the six months retraining about BK and AK Prosthesis. H.I. asks for the selection of a Supervisor.

**- August 1990:**

End of the first BK training. After examination, the 3 students from Spendai (IAHC) receive their certificate for BK and Crutches. Their level is very good. Only 3 of the students from Dara receive the certificate for BK and crutches, the fourth will manufacture only crutches. The Supervisor for Dara also finishes his training.

Discussions with the partners for the organization of the next session, planned for October 1990.

Purchasing of the material for one year running of the Units.

Arrival of one additional technician for Zindadjan Unit. One of the others is chosen as Supervisor and begins his training as such.

First proposition by H.I. for a future funding through UNOCA for this Unit.

**- September 1990:**

The two teams are ready to go back to Afghanistan.

The partners organize the trucks for transportation of the material to the future Units. H.I. pays the transportation after receiving the bills from the partners.

The Afghan Trainor of the Handicap International Training Centre supervises the "operations" up to the afghan border in order to ease the formalities with Pakistani authorities.

IAHC sends 5 students for the second session: 1 to complete the team of three technicians already in Spendai and 4 selected for the future Unit of Karni Manda. It was unfortunately soon obvious that those last 4 students had not the sufficient level to follow the training and H.I. asked IAHC to replace them as soon as possible.

**- October 1990:**

The Workshop Supervisor selected for Spendai (IAHC) arrives in Quetta and begins his training.

The four replacement students for Karni Manda have been sent by IAHC. After assessment of their skills, the technical staff decides to keep them for the training.

The MCI trainees supposed to come for the second session are not selected yet. The beginning of this training is delayed until the 1st of December.

No news yet from the Dara and Spendai Units.

The 5 technicians from Zindadjan have started their re-training about the AK prosthesis manufacture.

Contact is made with UNOCA in vue to fund directly through them the running costs of the Zindadjan Rehab Unit. The Medical committee of Ismael Khan, UNOCA and H.I. have talks to define the role of each partner for the future of this programme.

**- November 1990:**

The four students from Nakhouni (MCI) arrive at the middle of the month. One of them leaves Quetta one week later without explanation. One of the students from Karni Manda (IAHC) also leaves due to eye problems.

This month is spent to give a complete training about producing of basic tools, maintenance of tools and machines, manufacture of crutches (35 pairs made). The students also receive arithmetic courses.

End of the administrative training of the Supervisor of Spendai who has a very good level.

The five students from Zindadjan finished this month their first AK prostheses and already begun the second one.

At the end of the month, we receive a few video images from Spendai: the building is almost finished and the technicians are already working in a small garage close to the Health Centre.

Images from Dara testify that the material sent in September has arrived, but no news yet from the construction of the workshop.

#### **- December 1990:**

The new expatriate in charge of the Training Centre arrives on the 6th. He is an engineer coming from Belgium. His name is Patrick Delperdange.

On the 2nd begins the training for the students from Karni Manda and Punjwai about BK prostheses and crutches. The arithmetic courses continue during all this month.

The two replacements for the students who left in November arrive respectively on the 8th and the 19th.

The training on AK prosthesis for the Zindadjan team finishes on the 31st. The devices they produced are of an excellent quality level. They also showed great motivation and interest for the future of their Unit in Herat Province. The agreement with UNOCA for the future funding of the Unit is still under process.

The Training Centre received the visit of the W.H.O. consultant for prosthetics and orthotics, Mr D. TESSEMA. His purpose is to coordinate the work of the different organizations producing orthopaedic devices in programmes for Afghanistan. He came during four mornings to the workshop, asking informations and giving technical advices. Talks about the possibility to send our trainor in Peshawar to receive courses about other techniques (use of the polypropylene for the socket, for example).

#### **4. ALTERATIONS OBSERVED**

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##### 4.1. The students from Karni Manda

To refuse the students from Karni Manda for the first BK session was justified by their very low level and the necessity to keep minimum standards of quality for the devices to manufacture.



It has been later confirmed that this decision was correct, as it allowed in fact a better follow up for the two other teams, seen the generally very low level of education of all the students that makes the start of the training rather slow. It also permitted the integration of the Herati (Zindadjan) students in June.

#### 4.2. Level of the students

After ten years of war, the level of education for young adults is almost inexistant. This training is definitely basic but remains a challenge for those people leaving their fields or the armed Jihad. H.I. had then to decide to reduce the types of devices to produce.

According to the most urgent needs, it was decided to train the students only to the manufacture of BK prostheses and Crutches during this first session. Depending on the results of the work done in Afghanistan after the training, decision will be taken for further trainings (AK prosthesis, basic physiotherapy...).

#### 4.3. Construction of the workshops

Both in Spendai and in Dara, delays have been observed. None of those was ready at the arrival of the teams. One of the teams (Spendai) had a little garage to begin the work in October, but in Dara, the team had to wait until the end of the works, i.e. until 20th of November.

This meant a rather serious delay wich caused also delay for the first evaluation visit, impossible (and less usefull) before January. Nevertheless, images or reports arrived regularly showing evidence about the achievements of the works and the motivation of the partners. Consequently it has been decided to reconsider the deadline for the beginning of the works for the two next units, that should begin in early April.

#### 4.4. Arrival of the students for the second session

The start of the second session was initially programmed for the beginning of October and actually begun on the 2nd of December. This was basically due to recruitment difficulties (see above Point 3. Septmber 1990). It was consequently decided to bring forward the dates of recruitments, for example for the selection of the workshop Supervisors.

Anyway this kind of delay will not affect the achievement of the global programmes, as it had been taken into account in their organization (see below Point 5 for the future timing).

## **5. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES**

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### **- January 1991:**

First BK finished by the students of the second session, and first evaluation of their real skills.

Arrival of the first two evaluation teams (the workshop Supervisor + one of the technicians) from Spendai and Dara with reports, administrative documents, samples of devices, photos...

Final agreement between UNOCA, H.I. and Ismael Khan (Emirate of South,West Afghanistan) for the future funding and technical follow-up of the Zindadjian Unit.

### **- February 1991:**

Finalization of the accountancy of the first two units with the partners: payment by H.I. of the salaries and of the building expenses; payment of the second instalment to MCI (90,000 Pak Rs).

Discussion and preparation of the plans for the building of the next two Units (Karni Manda and Nakhouni) with the partner's engineers.

### **- March 1991:**

Final agreement on the plans for the next two Rehab Units and estimate of the costs. Depending on the weather, beginning of the constructions.

Recruitment by the partners of the workshop Supervisors for those two units.

### **- May 1991:**

Arrival in Quetta of the two selected Supervisors and beginning of their training.

Planning for the needs in material and tools for the new Units and purchasing.

### **- June 1991:**

Ending of the building constructions.

End of the training of the Supervisors and of the technicians.

**- July 1991:**

Final evaluation and presentation of the Certificates.

Departure of the teams to Afghanistan with material and equipments. Appointments are made for the first evaluation visits.

**- August to December 1991:**

Evaluation of the Units.

Preparation of the AK session: verification of the skills of the Afghan Trainor, training of an additionnal Trainor, updating of the course curriculum.

**- January 1992 to August 1992:**

According to the results of the evaluation, beginning of the training about AK Prosthesis for two technicians of each MCI and IAHC Unit. This should last 8 month.

Further follow-up and additionnal trainings will depend on... fundings and results of the works of the units during this first period of two years.

# AFGHANISTAN

## ANNEX

